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Letter dated 26 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing to inform you that, on Sunday, 25 March 2018, the Saudi Air Defence Force intercepted seven ballistic missiles launched by the Iranian-backed Houthi militia and targeting densely populated civilian areas in the cities of Riyadh, Khamis Mushayt, Najran, and Jazan. At the time of writing, these attacks had led to the death of one Egyptian citizen. The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia takes this opportunity to offer its deepest condolences to the Government and people of Egypt for this loss and assures them that the Kingdom will take all necessary measures to ensure that there shall be no impunity for the Houthis' lawless attacks.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia calls upon the Security Council to uphold its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security by condemning these Houthi ballistic missile attacks and by holding the Houthis' Iranian sponsors accountable for furnishing this non-State terrorist group with ballistic missiles, which the Houthis have used more than 100 times to attack my country. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and numerous States Members of the United Nations have repeatedly shared insurmountable evidence proving that Iran supports the Houthi terrorist militias, in particular by smuggling ballistic missiles into Yemen to target the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in flagrant violation of Security Council resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015). The continued escalation of Houthi ballistic missile attacks on my country demonstrates that the inability of the Security Council to hold Iran accountable for its violations has sent the Houthis and their Iranian sponsors a clear signal that they should continue to target the Kingdom. The most egregious failure of the Council to hold Iran accountable was the rejection of the draft Security Council resolution tabled by the United Kingdom on 26 February 2018 to renew the mandate of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2140 (2014). The draft resolution condemned Iran's violation of the arms embargo established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2216 (2015), directed the Committee to participate in a joint meeting with the 2231 format to consider further evidence of the smuggling of Iranian weapons into Yemen and reaffirmed that the Committee's sanctions designation criteria may include, inter alia, any activity relating to the use of ballistic missiles in Yemen, including launches using ballistic missile technology, or the direct or indirect provision or transfer to designated persons or entities of numerous weapons technologies. The draft resolution would have given the Council the appropriate tools to hold Iran accountable and uphold regional peace and security in the Middle East. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers the States that

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consistently shield Iran from accountability to be as responsible for the escalating Houthi attacks on my country as the Houthis themselves.

The Kingdom reiterates that the military operations of the Coalition to Restore Legitimacy in Yemen and humanitarian and developmental assistance in Yemen have served to support a neighbouring allied State, protect legitimate and peaceful political processes commended by the United Nations, in full compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant Security Council resolutions, and by so doing stem the creation of a proxy-State in thrall to Iran, which will continue to threaten the peace and security of the region and the world at large, in violation of the letter and spirit of Security Council resolution 2231 (2015). The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirms that it will not be deterred from its efforts to implement Security Council resolution 2216 (2015) in full and will not allow the Iranian regime to usurp the authority of the legitimate, internationally recognized Government of Yemen by creating an armed proxy group as a base from which to attack the Kingdom.

My delegation requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Abdallah Y. **Al-Mouallimi**
Permanent Representative